



SOM news

Point of PRIDE



In 1984, Robert C. Gallo, MD, co-founder of the Institute of Human Virology (IHV) at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, gained international renown for his co-discovery of HIV as the cause of AIDS.



DEAN'S MESSAGE

As we approach the end of the summer season, our nation is still far from the end of the challenges that have confronted us this year. Even so, we can see a light at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Where many factions across the country have experienced setbacks and regression, we have been fortunate to continue making progress on some of our highest level goals. This is no doubt due to the people who have invested their lives' work in our mission. With the recent passing of three longstanding, prominent luminaries, our community is grieving the loss of exceptional talent, distinguished character, and significant contribution toward a better institution and a better state. I am personally grieving the loss of irreplaceable friends and true confidants. Reflecting on the lives and careers of **Dr. Nancy Lowitt**, **Dr. Milford "Mickey" Foxwell, Jr.**, and **Dr. Michael Shipley** reminds us of the aspiration and excellence that have fueled the School of Medicine's activities for decades.

Throughout the course of their service, these three stood as pillars of compassion, respect, and leadership. They earned these reputations. Winston Churchill once proclaimed, *"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."* They listened to the people around them so well, a surprisingly unique ability with remarkable effect. The impact of their management styles and work ethic is evident in what they and their teams produced. Dr. Lowitt's legacy will grow as the quality of our medical education and faculty development continues to increase; Dr. Foxwell's influence will persist in admissions and mentorship for generations to come; and the School of Medicine will remember Dr. Shipley in the success of the Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology and its national prestige. The common thread that ties these leaders together is the fact that they did not work for themselves. Never were they motivated by personal gain to pursue an idea or launch an initiative. Entire classes of students and groups of faculty received the gain from the

What's on My Mind...



...is the fortune of the School of Medicine to retain exemplary role models who will continue to inspire our endeavors for many generations.

tireless and loyal work of Dr. Lowitt, Dr. Foxwell, and Dr. Shipley.

As their projects, efforts, and departments continue to move forward, we can only expect continued success. **Effective leaders enable progress to occur even when they are absent.** While I am certain that many of us will feel their physical absence for quite some time, we can honor their memories and their accomplishments by conducting ourselves with integrity, authenticity, and sincere humanity. I commend this academic medical community for the reflections of these principles which I have already witnessed. The School of Medicine will no doubt continue to reap the rewards of success in their areas as we are one cohesive entity with one common goal: to improve the health of the citizens of Maryland and beyond.

I continue to feel grateful for each and every one of you and the integral roles you play in keeping this institution not only functioning, but flourishing during this challenging season. Stay safe, stay productive, and stay hopeful that we will emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever.

In the relentless pursuit of excellence, I am
Sincerely Yours,

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore
John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and
Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine

SOMnews is your source for all news and information regarding the University of Maryland School of Medicine, including Clinical Care, Research, Education, Community Outreach, and its Culture Transformation Initiative.

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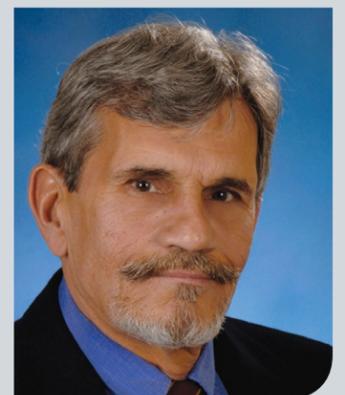
"Effective leaders enable progress to occur even when they are absent."



Milford "Mickey" Foxwell, Jr., MD



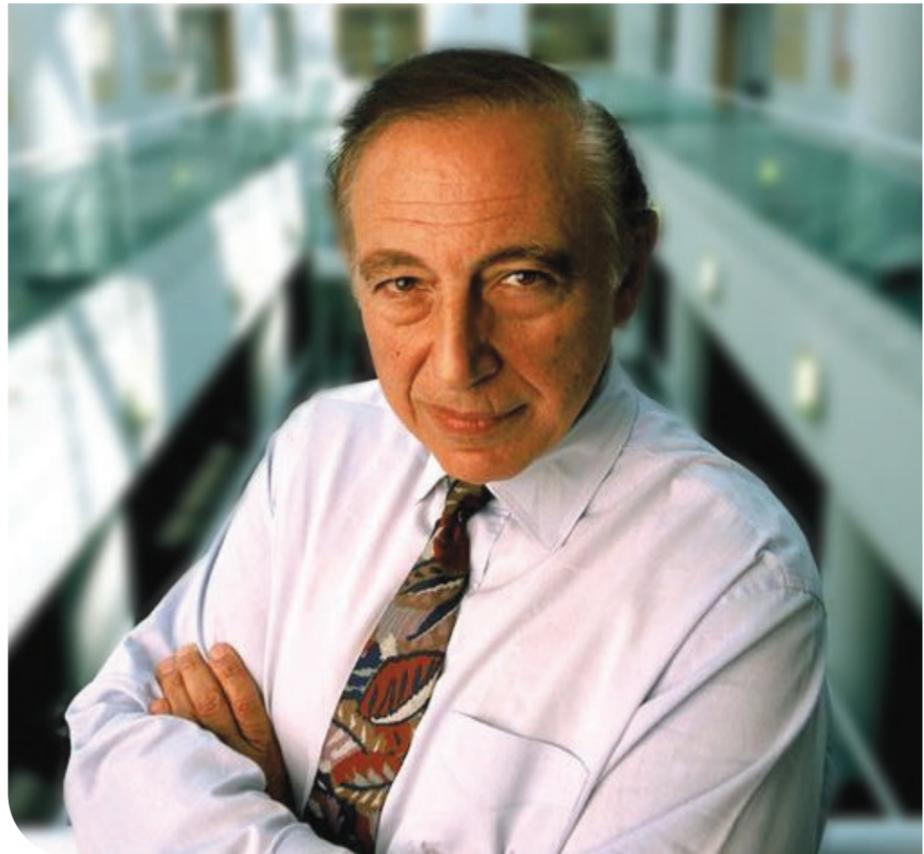
Nancy Lowitt, MD



Michael Shipley, MD

Global Virus Network Suggests Oral Polio Vaccine May Provide Temporary Protection Against COVID-19

IHV's Dr. Robert Gallo and Dr. Shyam Kottlilil among world-renowned scientists to publish strong argument for the live attenuated vaccine in Journal Science



Robert C. Gallo, MD

The Global Virus Network (GVN), a coalition comprised of the world's preeminent human and animal virologists from 53 Centers of Excellence, including the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and 10 Affiliates in 32 countries, have published a viewpoint in *Science* that the stimulation of innate immunity by live attenuated vaccines in general, and oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV) in particular, could provide temporary protection against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

"We know specific interventions such as vaccines against a novel virus that can cause pandemic will take years to prove they work, are safe, durable, inexpensive and readily available for the world," says Robert C. Gallo, MD, The Homer & Martha Gudelsky Distinguished Professor in Medicine, Co-Founder & Director of the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and Co-Founder & Chairman of the International Scientific Leadership Board of the Global Virus Network. ***"Clearly, these vaccines need to go forward. However, until there are proven efficacy, safety and global availability of the classical vaccines for SARS-CoV-2, we believe our strategy relying on simple, safe, oral, inexpensive, live vaccines will have a broad benefit against COVID-19. This can also likely be used in future pandemics, particularly of respiratory viruses, by inducing innate immunity, which is immediate and not as limiting as a specific vaccine."***

OPV is a live attenuated vaccine that was safely used in the United States from 1963-2000 and is still being used in more than 140

countries. Large-scale clinical studies of OPV for nonspecific prevention of diseases were carried out in the 1960s and 1970s. These involved more than 60,000 individuals and showed that OPV was effective against influenza virus infection, reducing morbidity 3.8-fold on average. OPV vaccination also had a therapeutic effect on genital herpes simplex virus infections, accelerating healing. OPV not only demonstrated positive effects against viral infections, but also oncolytic properties, both by directly destroying tumor cells and by activating cellular immunity toward tumors. More recent studies confirm these broad protective effects of OPV.

"Repeated immunization has an additive effect on stimulation of non-specific protection despite antibodies induced by the first vaccination," says

Dr. Konstantin Chumakov, Associate Director for Research for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Office of Vaccines Research and Review and a GVN Center Director. ***"Further, recent reports indicate that COVID-19 may result in suppressed innate immune responses, and thus, their stimulation by OPV immunization might increase resistance to SARS-CoV-2 as well as a broad spectrum of other pathogens."***

"The GVN serves as a catalyst to bring together the world's foremost virologists," says Dr. Christian Bréchet, President of the GVN, and a professor at the University of South Florida. ***"We are pleased to bring this idea to fruition,***

and we look forward to working with varying nations to initiate clinical trials."

In addition to Dr. Gallo and Dr. Chumakov, the authors of the viewpoint in *Science* include Dr. Christine Benn of OPEN and the Danish Institute for Advanced Study, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark, and Dr. Peter Aaby of the Bandim Health Project, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, who are both renowned experts in clinical vaccine research, as well as

Shyam Kottlilil, MBBS, PhD, Professor of Medicine and director of the Clinical Care and Research Division of the Institute of Human Virology at the UMSOM, a GVN Center of Excellence. Dr. Kottlilil, as the colleague of Dr. Gallo and Dr. Chumakov, will be the chief clinician operating the clinical trials studying OPV against SARS-CoV-2 infection.

"Pandemics are unpredictable and have

devastating impact on human lives," says Dr. Kottlilil. ***"Our strategy allows a rapid, simple, low-cost, global approach to curtail the present and future pandemics."***

Dr. Gallo stresses that time is of the essence. ***"OPV has a strong safety record, the existence of more than one serotype that could be used sequentially to prolong protection against SARS-CoV-2, a low cost, ease of administration and much availability,"*** he says. ***"This is not complicated, the science is there to support the idea, and we need to act fast."*** 



Shyam Kottlilil, MBBS, PhD.

Institute of Human Virology and Italian Researchers Find Higher Daily Temperatures Lead to a Decrease in COVID-19 Related Deaths

Insights into population density and daily temperatures provide a path to public health strategies

The Institute of Human Virology (IHV) at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, a Global Virus Network (GVN) Center of Excellence, in collaboration with scientists from Campus Biomedico in Rome and Ulisse Biomed and University of Trieste, in Trieste, Italy have announced the results of studies showing an inverse correlation between average high daily temperatures and COVID-19 related death rates in different geographical areas.

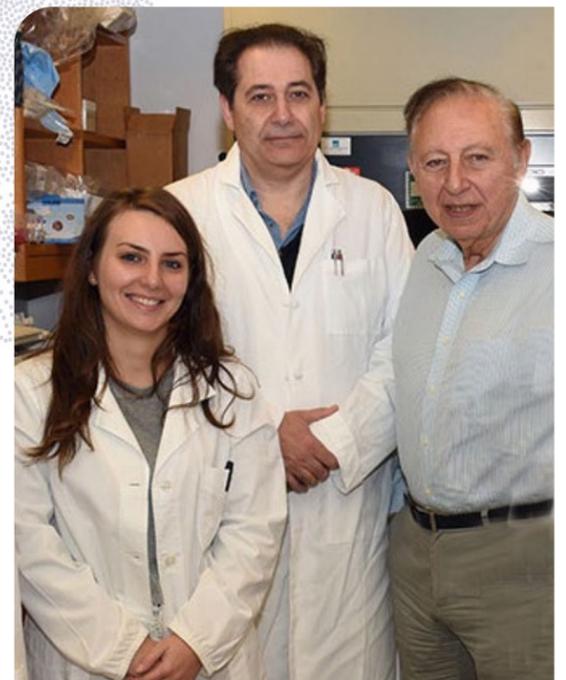
By comparing data for the months of March and April 2020 in 25 regions in Europe and the U.S., the researchers observed that in March, when temperatures were uniform and lockdowns did not exist, there was no difference in the number of COVID-19 related deaths, while in April, when lockdown was implemented, there was a statistically significant correlation between average monthly high temperatures with reduced number of deaths per one million people. These data, which will be published by the Journal of Translational Medicine, suggest that social distancing measures are more successful in the presence of higher daily average temperatures in reducing the death rates of COVID-19.

“Correlating higher temperatures with COVID-19 related deaths is a step forward in better understanding how environmental factors can affect SARS-CoV-2,” said **Daide Zella, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Institute of Human Virology, University of Maryland School of Medicine. ***“Data like these, expanded and confirmed, could potentially help in determining the many variables needed to tailor lockdown measures to different geographical areas.”***

“Our data provide more understanding regarding the impact of daily temperatures and COVID-19 related death rates, and serves as a model that can advise economists and public health officials to target future regions at higher risk of COVID-19 outbreaks,” said **Francesca Benedetti, PhD**, Research Associate of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Institute of Human Virology, University of Maryland School of Medicine.

“This research is an extension of work done by IHV’s Mohammad Sajadi and Anthony Amoroso presented in March,” said **Robert C. Gallo, MD**, The Homer & Martha Gudelsky Distinguished Professor, Co-founder & Director at the Institute of Human Virology, University of Maryland School of Medicine and Co-Founder and Chairman of the International Scientific Leadership Board and on the board of the GVN. ***“Scientists, including those within the Global Virus Network, will be able to expand upon these findings to help the private sector and government officials better prepare for future outbreaks, whether it’s SARS-CoV-2 or the next global threat.”***

“We are pleased that our previous hypothesis linking cold weather and viral spread within the community has been confirmed by these new data,” said **Mohammad Sajadi, MD**, Associate Professor of Medicine at the Institute of Human Virology, University of Maryland School of Medicine. Dr. Sajadi, together with Anthony Amoroso, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, and Chief of Clinical Care Programs, Institute of Human Virology, University of Maryland School of Medicine and Associate Chief of Infectious Diseases, University of



(from left) Francesca Benedetti, PhD, Davide Zella, PhD, and Robert Gallo, MD

Maryland School of Medicine, proposed the hypothesis that distribution of COVID-19 along restricted latitude, temperature, and humidity was consistent with the behavior of a seasonal respiratory virus. Dr. Sajadi and Dr. Amoroso are developing a real-time forecasting model of climate conditions that are favorable to the spread of COVID-19. 

HISTORIC UMSOM INVESTITURE CEREMONY

CHRISTINE L. LAU, MD, MBA, IS NAMED THE BUXTON CHAIR OF SURGERY



June 6, 2020 proved to be an afternoon of celebrating historic firsts, as **Christine L. Lau, MD**, a leading thoracic and lung transplant surgeon who was recruited last year to the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM), was formally invested as the **Dr. Robert W. Buxton Chair of the Department of Surgery**. The ceremony, the first-ever virtual investiture ever held in the School of Medicine’s history, focused on the outstanding career of Dr. Lau, who is the first woman to chair the Department of Surgery at the UMSOM in its 213-year history. Dr. Lau is among a small number of women throughout the U.S. to lead a department of surgery at a major medical school.

UMSOM Dean **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**, and **Anthony F. Lehman, MD, MSPH**, Professor of Psychiatry and Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, hosted the ceremony, which was viewed by audience members via Zoom and then made available for viewing on the UMSOM’s YouTube channel.

“This is a tremendous day for the University of Maryland School of Medicine,” said Dean Reece. *“Although we are not able to gather together in person, we have much to celebrate with the investiture of Dr. Christine Lau, who we are honored to have as our new Buxton Chair of Surgery.”*

The Dr. Robert W. Buxton Chair in Surgery was established through a generous bequest from **Frederick W. Plugge IV, MD ’57** in gratitude for the medical training he received from Dr. Robert Buxton, a former UMSOM Chair of Surgery, who had supervised Dr. Plugge’s training.



Robert W. Buxton, MD, MS



Frederick W. Plugge IV, MD

Headlining the ceremony were several speakers, each representing different stages of Dr. Lau’s career. **Irving L. Kron, MD**, Senior Associate Vice President for Health Services at the University of Arizona portrayed Dr. Lau as a paradigm for today’s surgeon. *“She is a top clinical surgeon, a thoughtful educator and mentor and a research scientist who is changing the world for lung transplant patients,”* he said. *“Most importantly, she is selfless and truly cares about other people.”*

After the presentation of the professorship medal by Dean Reece and Dr. Lehman, Dr. Lau thanked attendees for their presence and support. *“It’s a tremendous honor for me to become the Dr. Robert Buxton Chair of Surgery at the*

University of Maryland,” she said. *“In receiving this honor, I was absolutely thrilled to find out that Dr. Buxton was a thoracic surgeon like myself. What’s more, at the University of Virginia, I held the George Minor Chair of*

Surgery. George Minor, who was also a thoracic surgeon, and Robert Buxton were great friends. Additionally, Dr. Buxton and I also share a common connection with the University of Michigan, and he was a prior chair of surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Surgery is indeed a small, connected world!”

Dr. Lau specializes in all aspects of general thoracic surgery, including lung cancer, mediastinal diseases, benign lung and esophageal disease, esophageal cancer and lung transplantation. She is board certified in general and thoracic surgery. She received her medical degree from Dartmouth Medical Center in Hanover, NH, and subsequently completed her internship and residency in general surgery at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC. She then went on to Washington University in St. Louis, MO, one of the premier lung transplant programs in the world where she completed a lung transplant fellowship, as well as her fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery which she subsequently finished in 2005.

In 2006, Dr. Lau was awarded the John Kirklin Fellowship by the American Association of Thoracic Surgery. In 2008, she was awarded a K08 grant from the NIH to study mechanisms of chronic rejection in lung transplants. In 2015 she received a R01 from the NHLBI to continue her research in lung transplantation. Dr. Lau serves on numerous national committees and boards, including Director of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, a Director for the American Association of Thoracic Surgery, and a member of the Leapfrog Expert Panel. She is also a member of the Surgery, Anesthesia, and Trauma Study Section at the NHLBI. She has consistently been voted a Top Doctor in Thoracic Surgery and Cancer. 

Watch the online ceremony on  YouTube

▶ LEADING *the* WAY



DONNA L. PARKER, MD, FACP, Named Fellow to Acclaimed ELAM Program

Why would a dean at the University of Maryland School of Medicine take on the added responsibilities of an intensive fellowship on top of her already busy daily schedule? For **Donna L. Parker, MD, FACP**, Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, it came down to one word — leadership.

The fellowship in question is the **Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine® (ELAM)** program, a core part of the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. The program offers an intensive one-year fellowship of leadership training with extensive coaching, networking and mentoring opportunities aimed at expanding the national pool of qualified women candidates for leadership in academic medicine, dentistry, public health, and pharmacy. As its mission states, **"The ELAM program has been specially developed for senior women faculty at the associate or full professor level who demonstrate the greatest potential for assuming executive leadership positions at academic health centers within the next five years."**

Dr. Parker, who is also an Associate Professor of Medicine, applied to the highly competitive fellowship in early 2020, thanks to her nomination by

UMSOM Dean **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**. She was informed of her acceptance into ELAM's elite group of 2020-21 fellows in April.

Dr. Parker is enthusiastic about her participation in the program. **"ELAM is highly regarded for its terrific outcomes in terms of working with senior women faculty members and helping them progressively move into increasingly important leadership roles,"** she says.

In her duties as a Fellow, she has created a year-long project that seeks to enhance the function of UMSOM's **Academy of Educational Excellence**. Established through a gift from **Carolyn J. Pass, MD '66** and **Richard M. Susel, MD '66** in 2008, the Academy awards faculty members who demonstrate excellence in both patient care and classroom instruction. Faculty members inducted into the Academy are recognized on a plaque located inside the Pass and Susel Medical Education Facility in Howard Hall, and receive special pins to signify their membership into the Academy. Additional faculty are awarded funding for novel curriculum

development. Drs. Pass and Susel have recently provided an additional gift to create **The Carolyn J. Pass, MD '66 and Richard M. Susel, MD '66 Training and Innovation Fund**, established to support a faculty "Train the Trainer" program that provides educational leadership training for faculty, as well as funding for a reference library of teaching resource, such as instructional videos and other teaching aids.

Dr. Parker's specific goal for her ELAM project is to develop an expanded scope of educational services for the Academy, which is in her words, **"an important albeit honorific society without a clearly defined and actionable mission."** She points to the fact that many other similar academies in universities around the nation actively offer medical education programming that includes faculty mentoring, medical education scholarship support, an annual medical education day with a keynote speaker, and more. **"It's important that we promote and support medical education and the faculty who engage in medical education,"** she says. **"The need is even more pressing now that we've introduced the new Renaissance Curriculum for the fall semester and have new teaching faculty who must be oriented to it."** She also points out that

more robust Academy would support younger UMSOM faculty who are seeking promotion opportunities through the new clinician-educator pathway created by Dean Reece.

Dr. Parker is looking to implement this initial buildout of Academy operations in incremental stages over several months, culminating in a project presentation to the ELAM review board and Dean Reece in April 2021, followed by a complete roll-out of all novel Academy programming

over the next few years. **"I'm grateful to the Dean for his support and sponsorship,"** says Dr. Parker. **"There are a lot of different skills that I will be working on and developing personally, which hopefully can help me in all elements of the work I currently do. Ultimately, I think this experience will benefit the broader School of Medicine community as well."** 📖



Carolyn J. Pass, MD '66 and Richard M. Susel, MD '66

MILFORD “MICKEY” FOXWELL, MD



Dr. Foxwell at the Davidge Hall dissecting laboratory named in his honor.

An UMSOM Institution for More than Three Decades, He Was the ‘Face of the School’ for Thousands of Students

The University of Maryland School of Medicine community is mourning the passing of one of its most respected and best-known figures, **Milford M. “Mickey” Foxwell, Jr., MD, ‘80**, Associate Dean of Admissions at UMSOM from 1989 to 2018, who passed away at his home in Cambridge, MD, on July 16, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Sue, and son, Louis.

Dr. Foxwell, a nationally recognized medical school admissions leader, built a legacy that few in his field can match. In virtually every measure of admissions success — in particular, the quality and diversity of students — the UMSOM rose to its highest levels in history during his tenure. He was the “face of UMSOM” to every student who applied to and/or matriculated into the MD Program at UMSOM over the past three decades, and was the most influential administrator in the School in selecting the students who would become future physicians.

“Mickey Foxwell will always be remembered as a consummate professional who transformed the School of Medicine over his three decades of service,” said UMSOM Dean **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**. *“He consistently set the highest standards of quality and excellence, and served as an outstanding representative of our institution. The UMSOM is what it is today, in part, because of the extraordinary and tireless investment of time and resources that he made.”*

Born and raised on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, Dr. Foxwell received his undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland College Park in 1975, and then his medical degree in 1980 from the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He completed his internship in Internal Medicine at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C., and then returned to complete his residency at the University of Maryland Hospital and Baltimore Veterans Administration Medical Center. Dr. Foxwell served as chief resident in medicine at University of Maryland Hospital during the 1983-84 academic year. He then joined the faculty of the School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine, and was appointed by then Dean **John M. Dennis, MD**, to the Admissions Committee in 1987. He was appointed Assistant Dean for Admissions in 1989 and Associate Dean in 1990. During his tenure, Foxwell oversaw acceptances of more than 4,000 students — nearly half of the school’s living alumni. He was also a compassionate physician and gifted teacher, having been recipient of the school’s Golden Apple Award for best clinical teacher from the UMSOM Class of 1988.

In 2018, the Board of Directors of the medical Alumni Association of the School of Medicine announced that the second-floor dissecting laboratory in Davidge Hall would be named in Dr. Foxwell’s honor. At convocation ceremonies in 2019, he was

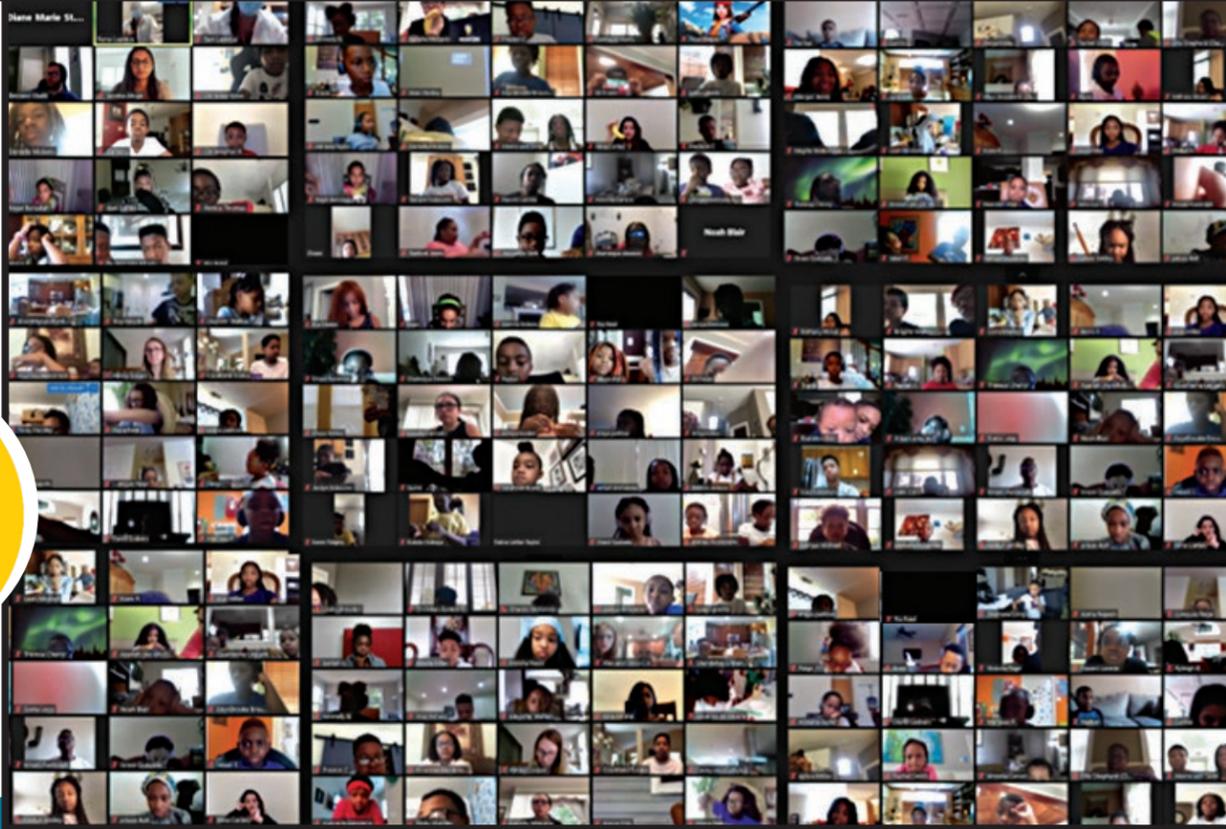
awarded the Dean’s Distinguished Gold Medal for his service to the institution. Dr. Foxwell was a member of the John Beale Davidge Alliance, the school’s society for major donors. He donated many of his antique medical books to the special collections department of the UMB Health Sciences and Human Services Library.

Dr. Foxwell was also remembered as a mentor to many students and administrators over the years, including **Sandra M. Quezada, MD, MS**, Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, who succeeded him in his role as Associate Dean for Medical School Admissions.

“Mickey Foxwell faced the final stage of his life with tremendous courage and grace,” said Dr. Quezada, who is also Assistant Dean for Academic & Multi-Cultural Affairs. *“He was my mentor and true friend, and I am so very grateful for the time I was able to spend working with him, and learning from him. His legacy lives on in the thousands of physicians he admitted to medical school, and in me.”*

The School of Medicine plans to hold a memorial event for Dr. Foxwell in the Spring of 2021. 📅

Program Celebrates Online Graduation



Virtual Program Reaches Over 200 Children in Baltimore — and Beyond

For the first time in its 13-year history, the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) Mini-Medical School for Kids Program was streamed online, allowing over 200 children from Baltimore City and across the country to participate in this year's cohort.

"This year's program was like no other," says **Diane Marie St. George, PhD**, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, MPH Program Director, and Mini-Medical School for Kids Program Director, **"We had children from here in Baltimore and as far away as Canada logging in each week to learn from our faculty and guest presenters about health and science."**

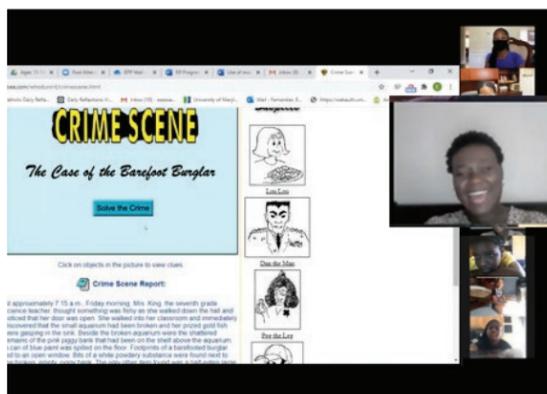
For five consecutive weeks, students learned about infectious diseases, hand hygiene, nutrition, forensics, DNA, and the importance of physical activity through interactive, one-hour sessions on Zoom. This year's presenters included **Rena Lapidus, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine; **James Campbell, MD, MS**, Professor of Pediatrics, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health; **Mariellen Synan**, Community Outreach Manager, and **Asunta Henry**, Community Outreach Specialist, both from the University of Maryland Medical Center; and **Rana DellaRocco, MS, F-ABC**, Deputy Director of Forensics, Baltimore City Police Department.

These presentations were reinforced with smaller group activities or "breakout sessions" led by 20 UMSOM post-doctoral, medical, and graduate students.

"It has been a great experience teaching the kids," says Preventive Medicine Resident and MPH student **Eseosa Fernandes, MD**. **"While the program has had to make some changes, more students now than even have a taste of what it's like to be a student at the School of Medicine."**

The 2020 program concluded with a STEM Panel, moderated by **Vincent Conroy, PT, DScPT**, Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, which included a mixture of University of Maryland, Baltimore graduate and professional student panelists. Mini-Med students were also honored in a special graduation ceremony with UMSOM Dean **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**.

All 211 graduates received a special gift from Dean Reece and a certificate of completion.



Dr. Fernandes facilitating a group discussion on forensics and DNA



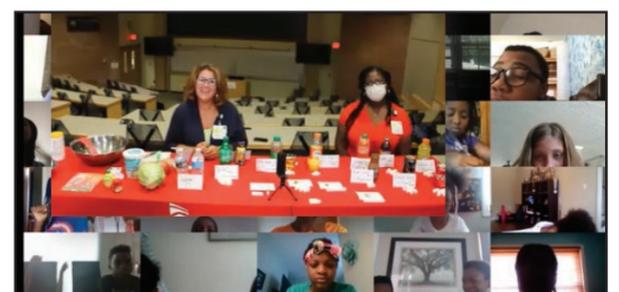
Students participating in weekly fitness session with Coach Donte Samuel, Owner of GameOn!Fitness



Baltimore City Police Department's Forensics Laboratory Director, Rana DellaRocco, building a DNA molecule with candy.



Dr. Rena Lapidus showing how to isolate DNA from strawberries



(from left) Mariellen Synan and Asunta Henry discussing the health benefits of limiting sugar-sweetened beverages.

Second David R. Gens, MD Shock Trauma Scholarship Awarded to **Maryclare Taylor, '20**

The annual **David R. Gens, MD Shock Trauma Scholarship** celebrates a legacy of unwavering commitment to medical education and mentorship, honoring fourth-year medical students who aspire to pursue a career in trauma surgery or emergency medicine. For this year's recipient, **Maryclare Taylor, MD '20**, the news she had won this prestigious scholarship helped to temper the rollercoaster of emotions surrounding her virtual Match Day and graduation during a pandemic lockdown.

Dr. Taylor's gratitude to Dr. Gens, a Professor of Surgery at the UMSOM, extends far beyond the scholarship itself. *"I walked into Anatomy Lab as a nervous first-year medical student who had never really considered going into Surgery,"* she recalls. *"Dr. Gens came over to my table as we were struggling to dissect out nerves, muscles, and vessels and jumped into such an enthusiastic explanation that I couldn't help but leave behind my nervousness and get caught up in the wonder of the human body that was before us. He said something along the lines of 'I see that light in your eyes —*



Maryclare Taylor, MD '20

maybe you should consider Surgery."

"I think that I carried that moment with me as I trudged through the rest of the pre-clinical years and saw my passion rekindle as I entered the Operating Room as a third-year student. Dr. Gens were the first person I came to when I realized that Surgery was my home in the field of medicine. He has been such a wonderful mentor and friend to me throughout my journey. It was an honor to learn from him."

For his part, Dr. Gens is delighted with Dr. Taylor's award. *"I could tell immediately*



David R. Gens, MD

that she had the skills of a surgeon," he remembers. *"Most importantly, she had the enthusiasm of anatomy that all surgeons possess. I was very pleased when she told me she was going to become a surgeon."*

Having matched at the General Surgery program at Temple University in Philadelphia, Dr. Taylor has begun her residency training there, buoyed by the confidence instilled in her by the mentorship of Dr. Gens. 🏛️

Please Give to the UM School of Medicine COVID-19 Response Fund

The University of Maryland School of Medicine is committed to combating the unprecedented health challenges brought on by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to impact our state and the world, UMSOM physicians, scientists, and public health professionals are mobilizing to provide high-quality medical care to affected patients while pursuing advanced research to discover new treatments and potential cures.

Your donation of *any* amount will support the innovative care and research that is needed **right now** to confront this global pandemic — and will ensure that UMSOM has the critical resources to remain at the forefront of our nation's COVID-19 response.

Please give today - visit

<https://medschool-umaryland.givecorps.com/projects/52811-school-of-medicine-special-projects-covid-19-response-fund>

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